(b) The Scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of Militants in the North-East is applicable to those millitants who have surrendered/surrender after 01.04.1998 with at least one weapon specified in the scheme itself. At present, the Scheme covers only Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. The Government of India provides 100% reimbursement for expenditure incurred on the rehabilitation of surrenderees.

Benefits under the Scheme are as follows:

1. Persons eligible under the Scheme will be initially lodged in a Rehabilitation Camp where they will be imparted training in a trade/ vocation of their liking or befitting their aptitude.

2. They shall be paid a monthly stipend for a period of 12 months. The stipend in respect of a surrenderee shall not exceed Rs. 2000/- per month. The scale of stipend for various categories of surrenderees will be decided by the State Government in consultatioin with the Government of India.

3. Board and lodging at the Rehabililtation Camp will be free.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of Assam implemented a scheme called "100% special Margin Money Scheme" for rehabilitation of misguided youths from 01.06.92 to 31.03.97. The benefit under this scheme was extended to 4843 ULFA and Bodo surrenderees involving Rs. 30.30 crores of margin money provided by the state Government and Rs. 69 crores loan given by various nationalised banks against State Government guarantee.

(e) The Central Government does not favour the proposal of the Government of Assam for reimbursement of accummulated loan burden by the Centre.

Laws Dealing with Sexual Offences

4748. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has urged Government to make several changes in the existing laws dealing with sexual offences more stringent and setting up of special courts to try such offences exclusively;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether there is urgent need to review the rape laws in the light of increased incidents of custodial rape and child abuse; and

(d) if so, the time by which necessary amendments will be made in the said laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI); (a) to (d) The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report has reviewed the rape laws and *inter alia*, recommended changes in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 as well as in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to deal with sexual offences more effectively. The Commission has also recommended insertion of a new section in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 to deal with "unlawful sexual contact". However, it has not suggested setting up of special courts to deal with sexual offences.

The recommendations of the Law Commission of India are proposed to be examined in consultation with the State Governments as Criminal law is on the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Bomb blasts at Railway Stations

4749. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cases of bomb blasts at railway stations and in trains are rapidly increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of cases of bomb blasts held during the last one year till date at railway stations and in trains;

(c) whether any strategy has been adopted by Government to check such crimes by strengthening its forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/UT Administration. It is, therefore, essentially for them to take such measures as are necessary to curb crime on railways and prevent incidents of sabotage. The Railway administration, on its part, maintains close and constant